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Each day seemed to unfold some greater bond of friendship, until I soon felt myself a part of this most interesting life about me. It remained for the boy with the beaming face who asked me if I would like to share a mother's letter to her son in the navy, to make me feel how much a woman's presence was really appreciated in camp, for as I read that lovely letter, telling the little personal happenings in the lives of the other members of his fam-

ily, and finally of the reminder not to forget to thank God for his loving watch and care each day, I could understand the feeling of that fine boy, and I was glad to be able to share his pleasure.

The opportunities for service which daily present themselves are so great, I shall be thankful as long as I live, that I had the opportunity to do what one woman could among ten thousand Navy boys, who were all true blue.

### FROM CAMP TO CAMP: THE WORK OF A FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

BY MIRIAM E. CAREY, *Supervisor, Minnesota State Board of Control (Field Representative, Hospital Service)*

There is as much difference between the camps as there is between the soldiers in them. Each has its special characteristics and these are not permanent but may alter with every movement of the army. Some camps have a predominance of colored troops; some are distinguished by large groups of medical men, or machine gunners, or cavalry. There may be principally educated and trained specialists, or there may be large numbers of illiterate to whom every detail of the life around them is a novelty.

Camp libraries must keep in touch with all these peculiarities and the books set aside for base hospitals must have cognizance of them also. A library in any hospital is primarily recreational, but as the Red Cross houses are for the use of all convalescent soldiers the libraries in them will be patronized by men who are no longer "sick abed" but up and around and more impatient to get in touch with their work again than to be simply amused.

It appears then that to put a suitable collection of books into a hospital is not a simple proceeding. Bright, clean copies of the kinds of fiction that men like; poetry, war books, history, travel and biography; but also technical books following the trend of the camp's activities; foreign

books in numbers to meet the local conditions; books in simple English and textbooks of all kinds, including primers and readers, if there are many uneducated and illiterate in the camp.

What the librarian of a base hospital library aspires to do is to get everybody to reading. In order to know how to do this a leisurely survey from bed to bed is taken. After the soldier gets acquainted with the librarian and adopts her as one of his own folks, he does not hesitate to tell her what he wants to read. Far from it. And after one of these bedside visits she can tell him, if he does not know himself, what he wants.

The librarian at Red Cross house, Camp Gordon, Miss Marjorie Wilkes, paid a call recently at the bedside of a man who was perfectly certain that he did not want to read anything. His was an orthopedic case and he was peevish and almost contemptuous. But it transpired that Miss Wilkes discovered in him a latent sense of humor and soon after her call she sent him a copy of "Penrod" with the message that if ever he had been a boy she was sure he would enjoy the book. The next time she visited the ward this man instead of being almost rude and wholly unresponsive was all smiles. Never had he

enjoyed a book like that one. Would she send him another? Greatest thing he'd ever read.

To satisfy the needs of sick soldiers it is necessary not only to take the book to the man but to get acquainted with him. After this has been done the librarian and her orderly have the supremest satisfaction that can come to such workers, namely that of seeing every man in the ward with a book, a scrapbook, or a magazine in his hand. As Miss Wilkes' orderly said after getting back from one of his rounds, "Well, I left everybody a-readin'."

When these men are on foot again and can go in person to the library, what they will choose will depend on their own special bent. The librarian's part will be chiefly that of guide, having foreseen from her study of the wards and her knowledge of the character of the camp what will be the principal demands of the convalescent.

There are at present hospital libraries in all the large camps in Georgia with librarians in charge who are or soon will be residents of the Red Cross houses at each cantonment. In Alabama there will soon be two such workers; in South Carolina there are now three and in North Carolina two; in Mississippi, one; Tennessee having no claim on Chickamauga Park appears to have no camps or hospitals, but as a matter of fact Chattanooga is the point of arrival for Fort Oglethorpe, which has a base hospital, librarian and both medical and hospital branches.

Camp Wadsworth in South Carolina is

the senior hospital library. Miss Ola Wyeth was the pioneer and worked her way to success through the difficulties which surrounded every activity of the camp in the spring of 1918. Fort McPherson and Camp Gordon followed soon after, Miss Avey and Miss Wilkes having them in charge at present. Miss Mary Lonyo went to Camp Wheeler early in the year and now finds herself a resident of the Red Cross house (as are the other librarians named) with a library of 4,500 volumes ready for her use, besides a number of deposit stations, also well stocked.

Miss Marie Fox Waite is in charge at Camp Greene, and finds that her experience as reference librarian at Princeton University is useful even in a camp. At Camp Hancock, Camp Sheridan and Camp Sevier the librarians are rapidly getting adjusted to their respective fields.

Good reports are received from Camp Shelby, and from Camp Jackson, under the direction of Miss Wyeth, the pioneer, a development adequate to the needs of a hospital of 2,300 beds may be expected.

Fort Johnston in Florida is said to be ready for a hospital librarian, and at Camp McClellan in Alabama the work will be organized very soon. From these brief statements it may be rightly inferred that the hospital librarians in the south are seriously at work with every reason for being pleased with the prospect of getting notable results, not the least of which will be their personal satisfaction at being allowed to serve in this capacity.

#### WHAT A BASE HOSPITAL LIBRARIAN SHOULD KNOW

BY EDITH KATHLEEN JONES, *Librarian, McLean Hospital, Waverley, Mass.*

Obviously, the first thing a hospital librarian should know is something of hospital organization. To all outsiders, the information that every large hospital, even in times of peace, is organized and administered under such strict rules and discipline and with such regard to rank

of staff and employees as to be almost military in character, comes as an amazing discovery.

In the ordinary hospital—general, state or private—the superintendent is the apex of the cone, so to speak; immediately surrounding him are the widening circles of